



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

June 14, 2006

H. MUNROE BROWNE

The United States Embassy Wellington notes with regret the passing of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H. Munroe Browne. Ambassador Browne was former US Ambassador to New Zealand and Western Samoa. He died at his home in California earlier today of a heart attack at the age of eighty-nine.

Ambassador Browne was appointed Ambassador to New Zealand on July 18, 1981, and presented his credentials on August 11, 1981. His posting concluded on November 1, 1985.

“While these were trying times for the U.S.-New Zealand relationship, Ambassador Browne saw his time in New Zealand as the high point of his life. He loved this country and its people and kept in touch with many of his Kiwi friends right up to the time of his death,” said Ambassador Bill McCormick.

Ambassador Browne was a dedicated public servant, and after returning to the United States he served on the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships, America's most prestigious program for leadership and public service. White House Fellowships offer exceptional young men and women first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the US federal government.

Before serving as Ambassador here, Ambassador Browne was dean of boys, history teacher, and football coach at Delano High School from 1939 to 1942. He was a businessman in Bakersfield, California: president and owner of McCoy Truck and Tire Co. (1945 - 60), of Browne Cattle Co., Inc. (1948 - 81), and of Hartman Concrete Materials Co. (1950 - 70). From 1951 to 1960 he was vice president and stockholder of Bakersfield Cattle Feeding Co. From 1975 to 1981 he was president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Contemporary Studies of San Francisco, California.

From 1972 to 1974 he served as a member of California's first appeals board of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, appointed by Governor Reagan and confirmed by the California Senate. He also served as a member of the Reagan transition team and chairman of the Small Business Task Force (October 1980-January 1981).

Ambassador Browne graduated (A.B.) in 1938 from the University of California at Los Angeles and attended graduate studies in 1939 and at Berkeley from 1940 to 1941. He served in the United States Navy as lieutenant from 1943 to 1945.

“Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time, and on behalf of the Embassy staff I would like to express our sincerest condolences to them,” said Ambassador McCormick.